



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Pleads Guilty to Weapons Offense **-Defendant Stabbed Victim During an Argument at His Mother's House -**

WASHINGTON – Kelvin Durham, 35, of Washington, D.C., has pled guilty to a charge stemming from an incident that took place last year during an argument at his mother's home, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

Durham pled guilty on July 12, 2011, in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to a charge of attempted assault with a dangerous weapon. The Honorable Anthony C. Epstein scheduled sentencing for September 13, 2011. Under the court's voluntary sentencing guidelines, Durham could face up to five years in prison.

According to the government's evidence, the incident took place October 23, 2010, at the home of Durham's mother in the 1100 block of Stevens Road SE. Although Durham did not live at the residence, he went there several times on the day of the incident. Each time, the victim, who the family considered as Durham's nephew, had to let Durham into the house. Finally, at 6:30 p.m., when Durham once again knocked on the door, the victim asked Durham's mother to tell Durham to stop coming to the home. Durham's mother eventually asked that Durham leave. As Durham turned to exit, he began arguing with the victim, the victim's mother, and the victim's brother. During this altercation, Durham reached inside his jacket, took out a knife, reached over the stairwell banister, and stabbed the victim in the chest.

Durham then left the house. He was standing in the street with a baseball bat when the police arrived. The victim received 17 stitches in the left side of his chest.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended those who handled this case for the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), including Detective Sean Moore, who led the MPD investigation. U.S. Attorney Machen also thanked Detective Jose Campos, Crime Scene officer Jeffrey Masalona, and Seventh District officers Chad Wyble, Thomas Roy, Ryan Savoy, Nikki Lavenhouse, and Walter Smith, who were involved in the arrest and investigation.

U.S. Attorney Machen also commended those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Victim Advocate Christina Principe, the entire Litigation Technology Support team, Paralegal Troy Griffith, Legal Assistant Nicole Lee, and Summer Intern Gena Thomas, who assisted in the preparation of the case for indictment and trial. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorney Lindsay Suttenger, who indicted the case, and to Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Pegram Saffoe, who prepared the case for trial.

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